

# Girl drinks

**SCHOOLGIRL**

Deborah Parsons argued with her brother about who should have first drink from a Pepsi Cola bottle in their father's workbag.

Deborah, 15, won the argument and died, because the bottle contained the deadly weed-killer Paraquat.

At the inquest yesterday at Southwark, London, S.E., coroner Dr Arthur Davies said: 'When are the public going to learn?

'This is the second such case within only a short time of someone dying after drinking this lethal weed killer from an unmarked bottle.'

Deborah's father, Mr James Parsons, a fitter, of Langley Green, Crawley, Sussex, told the inquest he got the Paraquat from work.

He said: 'Through my own stupidity I put it in a Pepsi Cola bottle. I just didn't give it a thought.'

'The children know that I often have sweets and other nice things in the bag and it was the custom for them to go and take them.'

'Deborah and my son argued over who was going to have the first

# first and dies

drink from the bottle. Luckily, I've still got my son.'

Mr Murray-Sandeman, a public relations officer for ICI, said that the Paraquat that killed Deborah went under the trade name of Gramoxone. It was used only by farmers and growers and was not available to the general public.

Verdict: Accidental death.

## Slipshod

Deborah was the 70th victim in the past ten years of the ICI-marketed poison for which there is no known antidote.

Only a month ago the Daily Mail revealed that regulations to protect the public from the poison were slipshod, largely ineffective and needed overhaul.

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